

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action dated November 3, 2004. Claims 1-30 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 11, and 21 have been rejected. Claims 2-10, 12-20, and 22-30 have been objected to.

Applicants note with appreciation that claims 2-10, 12-20, and 22-30 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In response, claims 2, 12, and 22 have been amended, in independent form, to include the limitations of claims 1, 11 and 21, respectively, as well as to correct typographical errors, to place the claims in condition for allowance. Claims 1, 11, and 21 have been canceled. Accordingly, claims 2-10, 12-20, and 22-30 are pending. For the reasons set forth more fully below, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims as presented are allowable. Consequently, reconsideration, allowance, and passage to issue are respectfully requested.

Applicants have included a Petition for Extension of Time to extend the deadline for filing a response by one (1) month, from February 4, 2005 to March 3, 2005.

Claim Objections

The Examiner has stated:

Claims 1 and 2 are objected to because of the following informalities: claim 1, line 7, after -- device --, the rest of the text seem to be part of claim 2; and claim 2, lines 1-3, does not refer back to claim 1, however, seem to refer back by claiming further steps of step (a) of claim 1. Appropriate correction is required. For examination purpose, it is assumed that claim 2 is dependent on claim 1 and the text of claim 1, line 7 is the starting phrase of claim 2.

In response, claim 1 has been canceled, claim 2 has been amended in independent form to include the limitations of claim 1, and the phrase “The method of claim 1” in claim 2 has been deleted. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 2 overcomes the objections.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §102

The Examiner has stated:

Claims 1, 11, and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Crisan, Patent No. 6,292,890.

As to claim 1, Crisan teaches initiating a boot sequence in the computer system (col. 3 lines 29-39), determining whether a first device of the plurality of devices is one of a bootable device and a nonbootable device (col. 3 lines 39-42), and performing a clean restart of the boot sequence if the device is a nonbootable device (col. 2 lines 61-65). The method of claim 1, wherein the computer system further includes a BIOS and wherein the nonbootable device is bypassed during the clean restart (col. 7 lines 1-20). ...

In response, claims 1, 11, and 21 have been canceled, and the limitations of canceled claims 1, 11 and 21 have been incorporated into allowable claims 2, 12, and 22, respectively, to place claims 2, 12, and 22 in condition for allowance.

Remaining dependent claims

Dependent claims 3-10, 13-20, and 23-30 depend from allowable amended independent claims 2, 12, and 22, respectively. Accordingly, claims 3-10, 13-20, and 23-30 are thus allowable over the prior art for at least the same reasons as claims 2, 12, and 22.

Conclusion

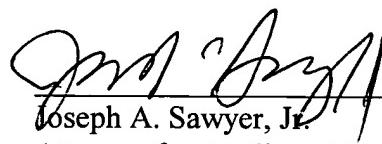
In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that claims 2-10, 12-20, and 22-30 are patentable over the cited reference. Applicants, therefore, respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the claims as now presented.

Applicants' attorney believes that this application is in condition for allowance. Should any unresolved issues remain, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date



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